

Mortimer, Adam (MAG)

From: Letang, Chris (SOLGEN)
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 4:53 PM
To: DiTommaso, Mario (SOLGEN)
Cc: Abdi, Fuad (MCM); Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN)
Subject: Strategic Overview - February 1, 2022

Deputy, please find today's strategic report – here are the current atmospherics from Ottawa as well,

- Speeches continue.
- Approximately 20 people on Parliament Hill, 50-100 people on Wellington.
- Narrative remains peaceful and not aggressive.
- Protestors calm and upbeat.
- Downtown remains gridlocked.

No issues to report.

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-01 at 1600 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

- No new incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

- Current crowds in Ottawa are being reported as minimal and many participants have left the downtown core. The convoy has yet to establish an end time to protest activity. Traffic issues persist in Downtown Ottawa.
- Media reporting indicates a well-known QAnon-endorsed Canadian conspiracy theorist who also claims to be the rightful Queen of Canada has departed from Victoria, BC on route to Ottawa in an RV. A schedule shared by the conspiracy theorist indicates they intend to arrive in Ottawa with their convoy on February 3, 2022. The conspiracy theorist's social media account indicates they have raised \$21,000 for their convoy.
 - The conspiracy theorist in question was previously arrested, questioned and released by the RCMP in BC in November, 2021. The individual had instructed online followers to intercept and dispose of COVID-19 vaccines and threatened violence against administrators of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Media reporting notes another conspiracy theorist long associated with anti-vaccine and anti-mandate activities is planning to travel to Ottawa, with the conspiracy theorist indicating they and their supporters will be a second wave in Ottawa. This conspiracy theorist was criminally

charged by Toronto Police Service in May 2021 with uttering death threats, assaulting a peace officer with a weapon, and one count of dangerous operation of a conveyance in relation to the conspiracy theorist's alleged threats against the Premier and actions to evade law enforcement.

- Media reporting indicates that convoys of tractor-trailers have been blocking both sides of a border crossing in Alberta for three days. The reporting indicates that the RCMP have deemed the protest illegal.
- Social media messaging has suggested that another convoy of trucks is travelling from Alberta to Ottawa. No further details are currently available.
- The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy amounts to almost \$9.7 million. The "ADOPT A TRUCKER" fundraiser had raised almost \$121,000 as of yesterday.

ASSESSMENT

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy and Operation BearHug 2.0 protest activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

This protest remains highly fluid and potentially volatile. Social media messaging from varied sources is distorting the nature of police presence and activities at the protest, which increases the potential safety risks. There does not appear to be any planned schedule of events or cohesive strategic plan for the protest other than to remain in place long term. Protest organizers appear to be employing a degree of improvisation, which may afford them agility that allows them to mobilize protestors rapidly and on an ad hoc basis. Events on the ground are likely to be unpredictable. The strategy for managing or resolving the blockade at the US-Alberta border will likely have repercussions in Ontario.

The convoys and rally on Parliament Hill over the weekend did not materialize into a significant public safety threat or major incident beyond traffic management issues. Reported incidents of harassment and vandalism garnered significant media attention over the weekend and have drawn condemnation from public figures within and outside the trucking community. Police of jurisdiction are investigating instances where criminal harassment, trespass or vandalism are believed to have occurred.

Organizers have indicated they are planning to continue demonstrating, including with potential disruptions that may gridlock areas around Parliament buildings and parts of Ottawa with no expressed departure date for participants or a clear timing when actions may end. However, reporting indicates that crowd numbers have significantly dwindled from their peak on Saturday and the ability of the group to materially disrupt traffic may subsequently be more limited. Inclement weather anticipated in the coming days may also further suppress crowd size and activity.

Information shared through social media has indicated some convoy participants and supporters may continue to attempt to disrupt the business of government by holding events at or near City Halls, Provincial government facilities, offices and/or properties. Public Health Units, mainstream media outlets, and law enforcement facilities may also become vulnerable to protest activities consistent with ongoing anti-mandate and anti-government organizing.

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